

Message Text

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ACTION OPIC-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 EB-11 AID-20 /058 W

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R 101138Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8699

UNCLAS KABUL 4319

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN, AF

SUBJ: YAQUB LEATHER INDUSTRIES (YLI)

DEPT PASS TO BALBIR MATHUR, GENLEATHER, AND TO OPIC

1. MATHUR LEFT AFGHANISTAN AFTER REPORTING APPARENT IMPASSE WITH YUNUS RAFIQ, PRESIDENT OF PRIVATE INVESTMENT. MATHUR HAD REPORTED TO RAFIQ THAT YLI UNABLE TO MEET PRODUCTION SCHEDULE SPECIFIED IN INVESTMENT APPLICATION AND ASKED FOR APPROVAL ON CURRENT PICKLED SKIN PRODUCTION UNTIL FACTORY COULD BE UPGRADED. RAFIQ REPORTEDLY INSISTED ON YLI MEETING PROMISED SCHEDULE. MEETING ENDED, AFTER HEATED WORDS, WITH RAFIQ TELLING MATHUR TO "WRITE A LETTER". MATHUR SAID HE UNCERTAIN AS TO WHAT LETTER SHOULD CONTAIN.

2. AFTER DELAYS, EMBOFF MET WITH RAFIQ. RAFIQ STILL SOMEWHAT ANGRY. HE FELT THAT GENESCO AND YAQUB LIED TO INVESTMENT COMMITTEE, AND THEN TRIED USE WEIGHT OF OPIC AND USG TO FORCE COMMITTEE MADE AMENDMENTS IN FAVOR YLI. EMBOFF ABLE SATISFY RAFIQ ON MOST POINTS, AND HE IS NOW IN MUCH MORE REASONABLE MOOD.

3. AT FIRST MEETING OF INVESTMENT COMMITTEE UNDER NEW LAW, RAFIQ MADE LOW-PITCHED PRESENTATION THIS PROBLEM. COMMITTEE "DECIDED THAT THE INVESTOR SHOULD SUBMIT A NEW PROGRAM FOR APPROVAL", ON RAFIQ'S SUGGESTION. RAFIQ STATES THAT WHAT IS NECESSARY FROM GENESCO IS TWO-PART LETTER. PART ONE SHOULD PUT FORWARD REASONS FOR FAILURE

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MEET SCHEDULE IN APPLICATION. PART TWO SHOULD BE SPECIFIC,

DETAILED, NEW PRODUCTION SCHEDULE. REFIQ SAYS IF NEW SCHEDULE SHOWS FULL EFFORT TO MOVE TO LEATHER PRODUCTION IN SHORTEST POSSIBLE TIME, HE WILL RECOMMEND TO COMMITTEE SCHEDULES ACCEPTANCE, AND APPROVAL OF CURRENT PICKLED SKIN PRODUCTION. HE IS AWARE OF MANY TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES, SO IMMEDIATE LEATHER PRODUCTION NOT EXPECTED. EVIDENCE OF IMMEDIATE EFFORT, HOWEVER, IS REQUIRED.

4. RAFIQ STATES THAT HE AND COMMITTEE SEE YLI AS BEGINNING OF NEW, HIGH VALUE-ADDED INDUSTRY, NOT JUST AS SOURCE OF RAW MATERIAL FOR U.S. HE IS WILLING TO BE FLEXIBLE AND ASSIST PROJECT TO UTMOST IF HE SEES THAT GENESCO AND YAQUBS SEE YLI SAME WAY.
ELIOT

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED BALBIR MATHUR, GENLEATHER.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LEATHER, PRODUCTION, BUSINESS FIRMS, DEVELOPMENT LOANS, FOREIGN INVESTMENTS, CONTRACTS, COMMITTEE MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974KABUL04319
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740184-0846
From: KABUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740762/aaaacaxe.tel
Line Count: 76
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION OPIC
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: martinjw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 OCT 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 OCT 2002 by ThomasVJ>; APPROVED <15 JAN 2003 by martinjw>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: YAQUB LEATHER INDUSTRIES (YLI) DEPT PASS TO BALBIR MATHUR, GENLEATHER, AND TO OPIC
TAGS: EFIN, AF, US, OPIC, YAQUB LEATHER INDUSTRIES, GENESCO, GENLEATHER, (RAFIQ, YUNUS), (MATHUR, BALBIR)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005